

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

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Volume XXXIX. No. 81

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.  
Fourteenth street—Soprano Italian Opera Troupe—  
Lillian Russell, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mrs.  
Nelson, Miss Cary, Campanini, Del Puente, Nannetti.OLYMPIC THEATRE.  
Broadway, between Houston and Blomker streets—  
V. J. Villard and J. J. Villard, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.  
opposite City Hall, Brooklyn—Lillian Russell and the  
Margaritones, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Lotta.BOWERY THEATRE.  
Bowery—REVENUE and VARIETY ENTERTAIN-  
MENT. Begins at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.METROPOLITAN THEATRE.  
No. 95 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.NIBLO'S GARDEN.  
Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets—DAVE  
CROKETT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Frank  
Mayo.LYCEUM THEATRE.  
Fourteenth street, near sixth avenue—French Opera  
Ballet—LA VIE PARISIENNE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30  
P. M. Mlle. Marie Allard.WOODS MUSEUM.  
Broadway, corner Third and Second streets—OR, THE  
CRUSADE OF TEMPERANCE, at 2 P. M.; closes at  
4:30 P. M. Same at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.DALY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.  
Twenty-third street and Broadway—CHARITY, at 8 P.  
M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. Ada Lyons, Miss Fanny  
Lavenport, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Lewis.THEATRE COMIQUE.  
No. 54 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.STADT THEATRE.  
Bowery—Grand German Opera—AUST, at 8 P. M.;  
closes at 11 P. M. Mlle. Lucie.BOOTH'S THEATRE.  
Sixth avenue and Broadway—THE COLLEEN  
BAWN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Dion Boucicault.WALLACK'S THEATRE.  
Broadway and Third street—CENTRAL PARK, at  
8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack.MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.  
Washington street, near Fulton street, Brooklyn—  
FAZIO, OR, THE ITALIAN WIFE, at 8 P. M.; closes at  
11 P. M. Mrs. Nellie, Mr. Frank Roche.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.  
No. 20 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P.  
M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.BREYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.  
Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue—NEGO MIN-  
STRELSKY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT ARMORY.  
Fourth street, near Sixth avenue—Concert of Gil-  
more's Band, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Soldiers—  
Wienawski, Artzke and Letzner.COLOSSEUM.  
Broadway, corner of Third street—PARIS BY  
MOONLIGHT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.; same at 7 P.  
M.; closes at 10 P. M.

QUADRUPE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, March 22, 1874.

From our reports this morning the probabilities

are that the weather to-day will be cloudy, with

tendency to rain.

ASSASSINATING JUDGES IN ARKANSAS is be-  
coming quite fashionable. Some time since  
Judge Meers was murdered. Yesterday Circuit  
Judge Fox, of the Eleventh district, was  
shot down in the streets of Forest City by a  
vindictive Southern lawyer. Who comes next?HIGHWAYMEN IN OHIO are becoming as bold  
as when Dick Turpin ruled the London roads,  
though less romantic. As our special de-  
spatch elsewhere relates, they not only shot and  
robbed a wealthy merchant, but plundered his  
coachman.OUR VESTRUS, or "Old Baldy," as the rus-  
tics of North Carolina term Bald Mountain,  
continues to alarm the regions round about  
by incessant roaring and quaking. If these  
volcanic symptoms continue much longer  
every dweller in the vicinity will become  
Christian, for every shock produces prayer  
and penitence.MR. DISRAELI AND THE FENIANS.—It would  
seem from our news this morning that the  
British Premier does not bid for the Irish  
vote, and that the home rule men and the  
Fenians have little to expect at his hands.  
He has positively refused to receive a dele-  
gation whose object was to solicit his inter-  
ference in the matter of the Fenian convicts.  
This will certainly deprive him of the home  
rule vote, and the presumption is that it will  
greatly strengthen Mr. Gladstone's opposition.  
It is not the first time that the Irish members  
have held the balance of power in the House.  
If they remain united they may yet obtain  
more than either Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Dis-  
raeli is willing at present to concede.SIR GARNET WOLSELEY has done his work  
and returned home to receive all the honors  
which the British people delight to pay to  
successful soldiers. Yesterday London gave  
him a grand ovation, and thousands upon  
thousands turned out to see the conqueror as  
he passed. His reception by the Lord Mayor  
was a magnificent affair. Sir Garnet is the  
hero of the day, and England seems pleased  
with the thought that, after all, she has sol-  
diers who can fight and win. The "more  
vigorous foreign policy" is likely to receive  
some encouragement from this Ashantee affair.THE SEE-SAW OF GOLD.—Day after day the  
quotations of the gold premium rise and fall  
about one-eighth to three-eighths. The mar-  
ket may open at 111 or 111½, and then go up  
to 112. Sometimes the fluctuations occur sev-  
eral times a day, but almost always the price  
settles down at where it commenced. The  
gambling cannot be very heavy under such a  
state of things, and these little margins of  
fluctuation must be very disgusting to the  
large and adventurous operators. The pre-  
mium seems to hang waiting on the final ac-  
tion of Congress with regard to the currency.  
Inflation, as far as it is likely to go, has been  
discounted in Wall street, and as soon as the  
volume of currency becomes fixed we may ex-  
pect a decline of the premium on gold. It  
does not go up, and the state of uncertainty  
only appears to prevent it going down.The Woman's Temperance Movement—  
Reform by Franny.

Intolerance never assumes a worse form than when it appears in frantic persecution of the people for indulgences that are common and for tastes that are as universal as the air wherever man exists. For a few hundreds or thousands of persons to seat themselves in judgment on a people of forty millions and to arrogate the right to say that certain things shall or shall not be done as they fancy it good or bad, is an extreme piece of impertinence, and, of course, can only pretend a justification under the elastic mantle of the moral law, which pretence has covered all the extravagant vagaries of human action, all the frenzies, fanaticisms and lunacies that have plagued the world.

As this country is politically a republic, ruled by the majority, and as, intellectually, it is a land in which intelligence determines and doubtful subjects are never thought settled in anybody's favor until they have been discussed, it is, of course, only on moral grounds that the few pretend to judge for the many, and the unthinking and ignorant to solve in a twinkling points as to which the most deeply learned are altogether doubtful; but the absurdity of endeavoring to promote a moral propaganda by acts that are quite out of the category of moral agencies is alone sufficient to condemn the woman's movement as a folly of the first order. But the mischievous incongruity goes deeper than this. On moral grounds a dozen condemn ten thousand, though the ten thousand do not assent at all to the morality as the dozen view it. If, because of this difference, the dozen were content to assume a position of lofty superiority and to banish the ten thousand to the outer seclusion of their own bad company by themselves retiring into miniature worlds that they could govern according to their fancies, as was done by the ascetics and churchmen of old and as is practised in our own time by the Shakers and people of that sort, no fault could be found with them, and the world might respect their devotion and honor their convictions. But instead of thus depriving a bad world of their excellent company and leaving the wicked to take alone the chances of an indefinite and lurid future, they come forth with their dozen against ten thousand, and pretend, by divine right of their private opinions, to reverse the judgment that the laws and the general intelligence have given against them. Their morality condemns the law as the people have made it, so away with the law. Their morality is against the intelligence of the whole community, and the intelligence, therefore, must be renounced. It does not matter that your cakes please your palate, which you fancy it is well to please sometimes, nor that you do not feel altogether happy without your ale; you must have neither, because a baker's dozen of pretty little moral bullies, led on by canting sensation persons, all of whom are virtuous, have pronounced against the said "cakes and ale."

One of the clearest of American thinkers used to maintain that the world had been too hard on the poor old doctors who had no faith in Columbus and objected to Galileo, "because," he said, "you must absolutely compel the new men to prove their new notions, and you may even put a penalty on the propagation of new notions that prove nonsensical. There must be an ordeal. Good ideas will survive, nonsense only will perish, and crack-brained people will be prevented from turning the world into a bedlam of their fancies." But the world has been made thoroughly free. There is no Inquisition; there is even as little as possible restraint on the score of good taste and common sense; and in the temperance frenzy we see the tendency of the result. It reveals out toward individualism. There is no social power to restrain extravagance. Every little Dorcas Circle, under the inspiration of its private Stiggins, creates the world anew for itself morally and otherwise, and marches out to compel assent by prayers.

They must be wonderfully good, then, these women and men who are better than all the world beside—whose virtue is such that it cannot longer tolerate what has been tolerated and practised in every land, in every age and by all men and women, and what the law permits. Yet their platform of moral regeneration is simple enough. They want to do right and to compel others to do right. So far they are like every one else, and most men will agree with them, save that under our government people may fairly claim that they have the right to do wrong if they want to on all those scarcely numberable points not covered by the law. But, in fact, nearly everybody wants to do right, and has wanted to always. Only, what is right? On this point they differ, of course, for the howling derives of temperance arise to define the right on the subject of beverages. Man, they say, may take water and milk, and probably cider, though, of course, they must specify the age of the latter fluid; and he may flavor the water with coffee, peas, beans, tarragon, chicory, tea, sassafras or other herbs and sugar. Beyond this there is no safety. He has no restraint enough to be trusted with wine or distilled spirits or malt liquors—or, at least, ten in twenty thousand have not, wherefore all the others must be restricted on account of the ten; for whiskey, wine and beer, they say, are the causes of all the evils that afflict humanity. It is a cheap phrase, this last, but wonderfully hot in the mouths of all the derisives. People who know more decide less readily; and they who have considered the social statistics, and who have looked largely at the effects of alcohol in the history of the human race, are far from taking the same view with the women—which makes but little difference to the women, however, for they do not know it—since they look at life through a pinhole in a blanket, and can declare only what they see. Human acts and appetites that are universal must, with thinking persons, be regarded as of some weight, and they favor indulgence. Although we see the bad results of excess in this indulgence as we see the bad results of excess in every indulgence, no one is in a position to say that by the absolute and universal discontinuance of the use of drinks containing alcohol the world around would not be infinitely more deplorable. It is obvious to every observer that the beer drinking classes of our people are the more robust and have a physical standard and a nervous stability far above those of the water and tea drinkers. Indeed, we believe the fault of large sections of our people is that

they will themselves to death with cold water. Faults in that direction are less flagrant, less appalling immediately in their results; but naturally they are worse than the others.

Agitations like the present one are not new. They are, indeed, of regular recurrence, and it may be well if they evaporate without results other than the stimulation of inquiry and discussion. Perhaps they aggravate what they endeavor to remedy. It is the experience of governments, on a large field, that the attempt to repress the use of alcoholic beverages, even if desirable, can never be successful. Prohibitory laws, the latest form of repressive endeavor, are an acknowledged failure. On this, as on so many other subjects, society, discovering experimentally that it cannot prevent, has contented itself with regulating, and at this point the supporters of the two sides of the case respectively have established a truce. They who oppose prohibition accept the less offensive notion of regulation, and, meeting on this ground, the combatants have registered their trace in the laws. That truce is now violated in the name of morality, and the law is compelled to defend a traffic that the virtuous declare to be the first of vices, or the liquor sellers, not receiving the protection guaranteed, will not respect the obligations incurred. So either the law is discredited in the eyes of the people as seeming to protect what is wrong, or the whole whiskey traffic without regulation will be made free. And this is the brilliant consequence of the abandonment of the fireside for the public arena by woman, the first evident result of her indulgence in "rights."

## A Remarkable Combination in Italian Opera.

Mr. Strakosch yesterday effected an engagement with Mme. Pauline Lucre, the renowned prima donna, for a season of thirty-six representations, extending over a period of three months. By securing this additional feature to his excellent company the enterprising impresario will be enabled to present any opera with the strongest cast imaginable. A company which contains two such surpassing artists as Nilsson and Lucre cannot fail to gain the heartiest encouragement and support of the American public. We have constantly urged the advisability of a grand ensemble in Italian opera, such as may be found in London, Paris and St. Petersburg. Mr. Strakosch has accomplished this desirable object, and it may be reasonably expected that the close of his season in this city will be more brilliant than its commencement. The season has been very interesting in the production of the greatest works in the lyric repertoire and in the liberality of management which characterized each performance. Seldom has Meyerbeer's masterwork, "The Huguenots," been given on any stage with the completeness and excellence in every detail that marked its representation by the present troupe. The scenic splendor and grand musical features of "Aida" have received unstinted praise from every one who appreciates art. The manager, in fulfillment of the promises of his prospectus, proposes to supplement the triumphs of his company in the operas we have just mentioned by the performance of Richard Wagner's colossal opera, "Lohengrin." It will be given for the first time in Italian form to-morrow evening. It is such a rare thing to find an impresario who carries out to the letter the abundant promises of his prospectus that we can only characterize the present season as one of unusual brilliancy. But in the engagement of Mme. Lucre Mr. Strakosch has made a bold move for the attainment of perfection in the representation of an opera. She will appear on April 1 in one of her best rôles—Leonora, in "La Favorita,"—with Campanini as Fernando. It is probable that some combination performances will be given, with Nilsson and Lucre in the same opera. Enterprise of this kind will be sure to be appreciated at its full value by the metropolitan public.

## To-Day's Pulpit Topics.

By a sort of mutual consent, as well as by request of the lady temperance crusaders, the topic of temperance, or the vice of intemperance, will receive special attention in very many of the churches of this city to-day. The Rev. Mr. Underwood will talk about "Drunkards and Drunkard Makers," and, we suppose, will tell us how to treat both classes. If intemperance is a disease, as the doctors say, and should be treated as such, what shall we call that which produces the disease, and how shall we treat those who vend it? Mr. Underwood will doubtless tell us. But if he should not we may obtain this knowledge through the Rev. Mr. Barnhart, who not only conducts a temperance meeting in his church in the afternoon, but preaches on the general subject in the evening. And should those two ministers fail to give us some practical thoughts on the great theme we may gain some light and inspiration at the meeting in Dr. Deems' Church of the Strangers in the afternoon, or from the address of the Rev. J. Spencer Kennard before the Lodge of Good Templars. The presence of members of the practical exponents of temperance principles ought to inspire a man to say good things and true on this topic. And, akin to this, "The Ministers' Temperance Resolutions," adopted lately at the Association Hall meeting, will receive some attention from the Rev. Mr. Boole, who has organized and led the crusaders on the east side up to this time. The resolutions referred to tasted too strongly of whiskey and water to suit the Methodist ministers, and last week they unanimously reaffirmed their belief in total abstinence as the only temperance doctrine. We may expect, therefore, that Mr. Boole will not touch the ministers or their resolutions with kid gloves, but with the assurance of the position of his brethren on this question, will open his theological batteries on both.

But another portion of our local pastors, realizing that, like the poor, this question will be always with them, and they can discuss it whenever they please, have turned their meditations towards Charles Sumner, from whose life the Rev. Mr. Sweetser will draw an important lesson on "Loyalty to Truth," and Dr. Fulton will tell us what "The Great Lesson of His Life" is. The Doctor will vary his meditations, too, by telling his people how and what it means to be "Complete in Christ."

Then there are another few of our preachers who will talk on topics more or less theological, practical or Utopian. The Rev. Mr.

Goss will present Christianity in some of its practical aspects, and will indicate how it can be brought more nearly and beneficially to the masses of this city. Dr. Ladlow will give us the result of "Studies from the Book of Daniel"—that book so full of mysteries, in which Second Adventists delight to revel, and of which men, know so little and pretend to know so much. And then we have, as a wind-up, "The Antichrist," considered by an apostle who claims the line by Catholic descent from the Apostles. He ought to know who Antichrist is, where he came from, whither he will go and all about him. We presume he will enlighten his hearers on these points, and thus, perhaps, ease the minds of many.

## The Demand for an Investigation of Our City Financial Management.

Over one hundred of the leading business men of New York, including many presidents of banks, insurance companies and trust companies, ask of the Legislature an investigation into the condition and management of the city finances. Their request is a proper one to be made, and should be promptly granted. Charges of a serious character have been made by responsible citizens against Comptroller Green, and Mayor Havemeyer, whose official duty requires him to investigate them, has neglected to do so, and treated those who made them with contempt. The matter is too serious to be thus cavalierly dismissed, and it is the duty of the Legislature to investigate the charges, and to inquire also whether the Mayor has, by his neglect, committed an official malfeasance.

When Mr. Green hired a lawyer to represent him in the Albany lobby, and paid his agent one hundred dollars a day fee and twelve dollars a day for hotel expenses out of the public treasury, he violated the city charter, at all events for the period during which the questionable services were rendered, under the existing law. If, as alleged, he pays out of the public treasury paymasters and others who do the business of the Chamberlain's office, and who ought to be paid out of the thirty thousand dollars salary allowed the Chamberlain, he violates the law. If he handles the city money, pays warrants without the Chamberlain's check, or in any manner interferes with the public cash, he not only violates law, but breaks down those barriers which are erected for the public protection, and which are intended to keep the Comptroller's and Chamberlain's offices entirely distinct and independent of each other. The Legislature should inquire into these matters, for they are all embraced in the charges the investigation of which is asked by our leading business firms.

Besides, the fact is before us that the city and county debt has increased nearly fifty million dollars in less than three years, or since January 1, 1871, while the taxation is sixteen million dollars higher this year than it was in 1871. We have, besides, liabilities in the shape of claims, &c., called a "floating debt," the amount of which Mr. Green persists in concealing. The charter provides for commissioners of accounts, and makes it their duty to examine the condition of the finances, the management of that and other departments, the amount of debt, &c., and to report the same. Mr. Green obstructs these commissioners in the performance of their duties, and gives them no information except such as they can ferret out. They have found his department under confused, unclearly and dangerously loose management. They discover that the amount of the debt, as stated by the Comptroller on December 31 last, is incorrect, and less than it ought to have been. They find warrants and checks drawn that have never been paid to claimants, and we believe they have unearthed cases of double payment through incapacity and want of system. They find the sinking fund securities kept in a loose and unsatisfactory manner. Yet we hear nothing from them, because, we presume, they hold their offices at the Mayor's pleasure, and if they tell the truth in these matters they anticipate a sudden termination of their official lives. This is why a thorough investigation of the Finance Department is needed. The people should know how far their enormously increased burdens are due to official incapacity.

## The Religious Press on Sumner.

The life and death of Mr. Sumner claim the attention more or less of the religious press this week. The *Christian Union* thinks that in his death the nation has lost a statesman of a type in which he had no peer. It compares him to Moses, and says that he, like the Hebrew prophet, was raised up by Providence to lead his nation out of the "house of bondage" into the "promised land" of freedom. Not once during the last twenty-five years did he falter nor was he diverted from his purpose; not once did he fail to speak the word for the hour. He was the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night to the oppressed millions of the land, and the negro race will deplore in him the loss of their mightiest and most faithful champion. The *Union* admits that Mr. Sumner was not perfect. He had some faults, a few of which the editor points out, but regrets that such a life was thus cut short. He rejoices, however, that Mr. Sumner lived long enough to make his name illustrious in his country's annals and to leave behind him an example the power of which will be felt for generations to come. The *Union* approves of Mr. Cox's bill in Congress for an art council, to be composed of artists, and not of politicians. And between these two topics it has sandwiched an article on "God's Personal Revelation."

The *Independent* thinks that in the cheaper sense of the word statesman we have had a great many men superior to Charles Sumner. He was called to the Senate through no intrigue of his. From the day that he was chosen to represent his State in the national legislature till the day of his death no grander figure than that of Charles Sumner has adorned the halls of Congress. Thurlow Weed, it admits, was a great politician—far greater than Charles Sumner—but he will leave nothing behind him to go into that permanent history which shall never cease to record Sumner's as a central name of fame in the story of the regeneration of America. In him the nation's wards have lost their truest and ablest friend and justice its stoutest champion.

The *Observer* contents itself with an ordinary biographical notice of Mr. Sumner and a brief reference to his funeral and a few briefer comments. It indirectly, however, applauds the deceased statesman for living and dying with the harness on, and for acting through life, as a public man, in view of death and eternity. It thinks the lesson that ought to be learned at the funerals of dead statesmen is the infinite folly of self-seeking, the infinite wickedness of abusing the power of a lawmaker, and the infinite value of a good record when a statesman stands before the King of kings.

The *Methodist* glorifies Mr. Sumner as a scholar, statesman, orator and philanthropist, whose life was a long war waged against wrong, but in no sense was that life fragmentary, but rather a complete, well rounded whole. He both lived and died well. He had accomplished the ends to which he had consecrated his powers, and had filled up the measure of a great fame. He took hold of all subjects by their fundamental principles, and hence had that wisdom which discerns remotest results. If not without fault, he was without stain. No spot remains to defy the labor of friendly hands to wash it away. It adds:—"From Sumner to Butler! O, what a fall is there, my countrymen!"

The *Evangelist*, whose editor, Dr. Field, had lately met the late Senator in this city, is pained that the last hours of Mr. Sumner were spent in regrets that he could not live to complete his literary work, instead of longings for or rejoicings in the near approach to him of the great future. It was a last confession of personal vanity, that the editor wishes he had been spared in the memory of the departed. He would have been glad had Mr. Sumner left some such record behind as Daniel Webster left. And yet it doubts not that Sumner, like Agassiz, though he spoke not much, yet believed in an Almighty Creator and in the great hereafter.

The *Jewish Messenger* says of Sumner:—"The death of a pure and upright man, who filled so prominent a place in American history as Charles Sumner, creates an impression which no patriot would desire to have effaced. So to his rest goes another American whose public life is wholly worthy of honor and grateful memory."

The *Christian Intelligencer* is certain that Mr. Sumner's place in American history is secure. His fame is world-wide. The millions of the colored race in our country feel his loss with a grief second only to that which they poured out over the grave of President Lincoln. No such genuine sorrow of this emancipated race finds utterance at the tomb of Mr. Fillmore. It could not be. The *Intelligencer* regrets, however, that neither Sumner nor Fillmore left any testimony behind of the power and grace of God or of the Christian religion in their hearts.

The Catholic press is silent on Sumner and Fillmore. They treat of the Pilgrimage, which will include at least three bishops, three vicars general and twelve other priests, and of the terminus of that journey. Many prefer Loretto to Lourdes, and some think Paray le Monial is preferable to either. The *Tablet* is convinced that "Ireland's Mission" is the propagation of God's holy faith from end to end of the habitable globe, and it is the more certain of this because of Ireland's allegiance to the "Vicar of Christ." The *Freeman's Journal* has given up its accommodation of applicants for the water of Lourdes, because some silly fellow out West insinuated that the editor was going into the "premium" business on too small a scale. The *Catholic Review* applauds "the priest-ridden Irish voters" for returning fifty instead of thirty-seven Catholics to the British Parliament in the last election. And so they go.

The Police and the Citizens.  
Rip Van Winkle, when he woke up from his long sleep, was astonished to find that everything about him was changed, and that even George the Third had disappeared from the tavern sign. Could some successor to the famous sleeper who was acquainted with the abuses of the New York police system twenty years ago suddenly wake up he would find little to surprise him. Familiar names would fall upon his ear, and the images of Mat-sell and Havemeyer might induce him to believe that nothing had been changed during his slumber. This would be the more remarkable that, while everything else had moved on and progressed, alone the police system of New York remains in its old demoralized and rotten state—something to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every honest citizen. We have men uniformed, armed and supported at the expense of the city, but no police force in the sense in which the term is used in civilized communities. The Matsells, Gardners and Williamses, who control the men paid to protect life and property in our streets resemble rather the pacha of some Eastern despot than the law-abiding and law-obeying officials of a free and civilized community. These men rule over the lives and properties of the citizens with irresponsible power. Under the pretended sanction of the law they enforce their own good will in defiance of the constitutional rights of the citizens, and there is no remedy for the acts of injustice and violence they may commit.

It is not too much to say that the citizens of New York, under existing circumstances, are as much at the mercy of their police masters as are the natives of Cairo at the mercy of an Egyptian pacha. So great is the demoralization in the force that the police are really more dangerous to the peaceable and honest citizens than they are to thieves and murderers. From time to time, under the Rip Van Winkle guidance of a Matsell, they make theatrical discoveries of imaginary conspiracies, which end in humbuggery, in order to cover up the stupidity and incompetence of the department. The violation of the sanctity of the domicile is but another step in advance, another proof of the utter disregard of the rights of the citizens; and hence we have honest workmen shot down in their homes or clubbed so brutally that their lives are endangered because they dare to imagine that they have some rights which the men they pay and support to protect them are bound to respect. It is evident from what Commissioner Gardner and General Duryee stated to our reporter that even they look upon the constitutional rights of a citizen as merely enjoyed on police sufferance, and that every police officer is justified in breaking the law, provided his intention be good. Nothing is sacred but the will of the policeman. He may break

into a man's house without authority. He may break the man's head if the spirit move him; or, if a nervous man, he may shoot the unfortunate occupant if only he imagines he is justified, and the Police Commissioners will see no reason why the public should create a fuss about so trifling a matter. McNamara was shot because he objected to a band of men bursting into his house in the middle of the night; but it might have been Dutch Harmon who was resisting, and, as the policeman fired for the good of the community, neither McNamara nor his widow nor the public have any right to complain. Such, at least, is the logic of the police authorities; but do these persons really imagine that this community will suffer patiently such outrages to continue? There does appear to be an idea entertained by Police Commissioners, Captains and other small fry that they can set public opinion at defiance and club down all opposition to their measures and decrees. Within the past few days we have had a monstrous and shameful example of the extent to which contempt for decency and public opinion may be carried by an official of a corrupt and rotten system. Every honest man in this city sympathizes with the efforts being made by the Board of Education to protect the school children from contamination; yet two captains of police had the temerity and insolence to come forward and publicly put themselves on record as the protectors of houses of ill-fame. Such a defiance of public opinion must receive prompt and condign punishment. The police have made themselves obnoxious to the friends and associates of political thieves, and it only required this last step to fill the measure of their disgrace. The friends of thieves are bad enough; but this city cannot be left under the care of men who are not ashamed to exhibit themselves as the protectors of houses of prostitution.

## The Rapid Transit Jobs.

The indignation of Mr. Lincoln, of the Assembly Railroad Committee, and last year's member of the Erie Investigation Committee, has failed to impress upon the people of New York the propriety of giving rapid transit franchises to the Third Avenue City Railroad corporation and Commodore Vanderbilt, one for a steam railroad from the City Hall to Harlem on the line of Third avenue, and another for a steam railroad from the City Hall to Harlem on the line of Fourth avenue. Indeed, Mr. Lincoln's indignation has strengthened the conviction that one or both propositions must be a fraud on the people, so far as rapid transit accommodation is concerned, however profitable they may prove to the legislators who vote for them. With the Third and Fourth avenues thus occupied, the dead Gilbert project galvanized, the Beach Pneumatic Tube underground humbug legalized and one or two other paying jobs slipped through, every avenue will be "plastered" with franchises, rapid transit will be effectually killed, the city railroad and the Harlem road corporations will remain undisturbed in the enjoyment of their large profits and Mr. Lincoln and his friends will be happy. This is the lesson taught by Mr. Lincoln's indignant virtue.

## THE STILTZEWEITER BUTCHERY.

A Visit to the House of Death at Centerville, Mo.

St. Louis, Mo., March 21, 1874.  
A gentleman just from Belleville, Ill., reports that Sheriff Hughes, of St. Clair county, had returned from the scene of the murder of the Stiltzeweiter family, near Centerville. He obtained no clue to the assassins, but the murder was evidently committed for plunder, as the house was thoroughly ransacked, and the contents of bureaus, closets, &c., were strewn all around. The elder Stiltzeweiter had considerable money in the house, which it is supposed the murderers have got. The house is situated some distance from any other dwelling in the vicinity.

It is believed that the murder was committed on Thursday night, as the bodies of Mrs. Stiltzeweiter and her children were found in bed when found, or her husband on the floor beside a lounge on which he had slept. The heads of the men were nearly severed from their bodies, while those of the mother and children were crushed with some blunt instrument. The County Court has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the capture of the murderers.

## The Probable Murderer.

St. Louis, Mo., March 21—Midnight.  
Additional but still meagre information has been received from the scene of the Centerville butchery. The name of the murderer family is Stiltzeweiter, not "Stiltzeweiter," as previously reported. At the inquest this afternoon held by Coroner Ryan, of East St. Louis, several witnesses were examined and facts elicited which led to the belief that Frederick Boeltz, husband of Mrs. Stiltzeweiter, committed the horrible deed. He was present, but refused to testify until forced, and then his answers and general conduct were such as to excite the strongest suspicion of his guilt.

He acknowledged that he had been on bad terms with the murdered family some months, entertained feelings of enmity toward them and was in the old man's debt several hundred dollars. These and other facts brought out, together with another fact, that the house was not ransacked and plundered, as previously stated, and that the old man's money was found, established beyond a doubt that the murder was not committed for plunder, and tend more strongly to fasten suspicion upon Boeltz. When our informant left the scene the inquest was still in progress, and it was probable that Boeltz would be committed.

## MR. LIGHTMAY EXPLAINS.

New York, March 21, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—By publishing the following apology and justification for my non-appearance at the German Stadt Theatre last night you will greatly oblige the undersigned. A certificate from Dr. Meyer, stating that I was suffering from gastric fever, and not merely from sore throat, was sent to Mr. Rulmann a sufficient time before the performance. The testimony of Dr. Parker was given after a most superficial and one-sided investigation of my condition, as that physician refused to listen to any heavy gate and high bar. For all I know, I was in perfect health, and I am sure that I could have performed the part of the undersigned.

## REWARDING BRAVE SAILORS.

Third Officer Hartford, of the Steamship Algeria, Presented With a Silver Cup and the Crew Under Him with a Purse as an Appreciation of Gallant Conduct.  
The cabin passengers of the steamship Algeria, on her late trip to this port, presented Third Officer Hartford with a silver cup, and the crew under him with a purse, as an appreciation of their gallant conduct in rescuing the shipwrecked crew of the Norwegian bark *Solida*. The following letter was received by Mr. Hartford:—

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP ALGERIA, AT SEA, March 18, 1874.  
WILLIAM F. HARTFORD, Third Officer:—We, the undersigned cabin passengers of the steamship Algeria, being on board New York, desire to express our appreciation of your gallant conduct in saving the lives of the shipwrecked crew of the Norwegian bark *Solida*. We also had herewith a purse, and we ask of you the favor to distribute it to the crew of the bark in equal proportions, but doubling the amount to the poor who were on board. We wish you a successful career, with health and long life, we are yours, respectfully,  
Signed by all the passengers.